

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2130

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

A MCONSUL PESHAWAR 761

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 8802

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: MASS, PK, US

SUBJECT: ARMS PURCHASES BY THE GOP

1. SEPTEMBER 23 PAKISTAN TIMES CARRIES FRONT PAGE STORY ON POSSIBLE ARMS PURCHASES FROM THE US. ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT H.K. BURKI, NOTES NOTES THAT GOP HAS SUBMITTED LIST, NOW BEING PROCESSED IN WASHINGTON, OF ARMS REQUESTS TO USG. HE ADDS PAKISTAN IS REQUESTING ONLY DEFENSIVE WEAPONS, INCLUDING THE TOW.

2. BURKI NOTES THERE ARE SEVERAL CONSTRAINTS ON AMOUNT AND TYPE OF WEAPONS PAKISTAN CAN PURCHASE FROM US INCLUDING GOP'S LIMITED FINANCIAL RESOURCES VARIOUS "POLITICAL REASONS" WHY US MAY NOT MAKE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY AVAILABLE, AND THE US POSITION IT WILL NOT DO ANYTHING TO UPSET THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THE SUBCONTINENT. ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT PAKISTAN IS LOOKING AT OTHER ARMS SOURCES, IN ADDITIONA TO US, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE CONSTRAINTS IN OUR POLICY BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT IS INADVISABLE FOR GOP TO PLACE TOO MUCH RELIANCE ON ONE SOURCE OF SUPPLY.

BYROADE

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